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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 12, 2013

**PAYSON RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE ASSAULT.**

Payson, Arizona – Gila County Attorney Bradley D. Beauchamp announced that on November 12, 2013, Gasoa Balas was sentenced to 12 years in prison for domestic violence assault. On September 21, 2013, Balas was convicted of three domestic violence related offenses following a three day jury trial. According to Chief Deputy Shawn C. Fuller, who prosecuted the case, Balas was convicted of two felony counts of Aggravated Assault, one of which was proven to be a dangerous offense, and one count of misdemeanor assault.

According to evidence presented at trial, Balas was arrested on August 21, 2011, after viciously assaulting his girlfriend with a pair of scissors following an argument they had inside their home in Payson. Neighbors called 911 in the early-morning hours after they heard his girlfriend screaming for help. Payson Police Officer Billy Hoffman quickly responded to the scene and apprehended Balas as he was leaving the home. Inside the residence Officer Hoffman made contact with the victim, who was crying and injured.

In addition to finding Balas guilty of assaulting the victim, the jury found that one of the offenses was a dangerous offense and that two aggravating factors existed: harm to the victim; and that the domestic violence was committed in the presence of children.

County Attorney Beauchamp commended the Payson Police Department, especially Officer Billy Hoffman, for the hard work and dedication that went into the investigation of the case.

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